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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Gera

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT 9 to 23 December 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 19 January 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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[REDACTED]

1. On 18 December 1953, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera was occupied by 2,500 to 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor transport insignia. Between 9 and 14 December, 16 to 25 soldiers practiced with 2 x 100-mm AT guns almost daily. At about 11 p.m. on 11 December, six prime movers towing a 100-mm AT gun each left the installation toward Langenberg. They returned at about 5:30 a.m. on 12 December. [REDACTED]

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2. Prior to 23 December, no change was observed in the occupation of the Reuss Kaserne which was guarded by sentries with red-bordered black epaulets. Between 20 and 23 December, 250 to 300 soldiers practiced close-order drill daily. The AT guns were standing in the garages. No service of the piece drill was observed. [REDACTED]

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3. On 17 December, the Panzer Kaserne Tinz was occupied by 800 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 600 BM were engaged in close-order drill, hand grenade throwing, combat training, and gas defense including training with tarpaulins and gas masks, and decontamination of arms and boots. At about 3 p.m., three tanks left the installation toward Zeitz Forest. [REDACTED]

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4. On 17 December, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by about 3,800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport and tank insignia. Early in the morning, 2,000 to 2,800 troops fell in in the billeting area. Some time later, 2 x 100-mm AT guns, 3 x 122-mm field howitzers, and 1 x 152-mm field howitzers were moved from the gun sheds and emplaced at a section of the installation which could not be approached by source. The shouting of orders was heard. At noon, prime movers [REDACTED] each towing a 100-mm AT gun and occupied by 15 to 20 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, left the installation toward Borna. A group of 150 to 180 soldiers was engaged in combat training on Steinertsberg (Hill). [REDACTED]

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1. Comment. The calibers of artillery pieces and the confirm the 308th Arty Brig (US) of the XVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps at the Neuss Kaserne (8141) until late December 1953. The occupation strength since November 1953 has been overestimated

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an additional unit of the Eighth Gds Army was possibly stationed at the Neuss Kaserne.

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2. Comment. There apparently was no change in the occupation.

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